

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, UR
SUBJ: LITERARY CONTACTS - TRANSLATORS' DELEGATION

REF: A. EMBASSY-MFA AIDE-MEMOIRE DATED JUL 16, 1976
B. MOSCOW 12126
C. MOSCOW 11853
D. STATE 160875
E. STATE 193531

1. SUMMARY. IN LUNCHEON MEETING WITH EMBOFF SEP 7,
T.A. KUDRYAVTSEVA OF "JOURNAL OF FOREIGN LITERATURE" AND
F. LURYE OF FOREIGN COMMISSION OF UNION OF WRITERS AGAIN
RAISED SUBJECT OF EXPANDED US-USSR CONTACTS IN LITERARY
FIELD WHILE INDICATING SOVIETS WILL SOON BE PREPARED TO
SEND DELEGATION OF LITERARY TRANSLATORS TO U.S. (SEE REF A).
END SUMMARY

2. KUDRYAVTSEVA AND LURYE INVITED EMBOFF TO LUNCH AT
WRITERS UNION. ATMOSPHERE WAS MOST CORDIAL AND KUDRYAVTSEVA
QUICKLY GOT TO POINT. SHE SAID INTEREST CONTINUES IN
IMPROVING CONTACTS BETWEEN AMERICAN AND SOVIET WRITERS
AND LITERARY EXPERTS. SPECIFICALLY, "JOURNAL" AND UNION
STILL EAGER FOR LITERATURE SEMINAR (REF B) AND TO IMPROVE
CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN P.E.N. (REF C). KUDRYAVTSEVA
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FURTHERMORE INDICATED SOVIETS WILL SOON BE PREPARED TO

SEND SMALL DELEGATION OF SENIOR LITERARY TRANSLATORS TO U.S. IN RESPONSE TO IV INVITATION EXTENDED BY EMB TO MFA IN AIDE-MEMOIRE OF JUL 16, 1976, A COPY OF WHICH WAS PASSED TO DEPARTMENT. KUDRYAVTSEVA ADDED THAT SHE WOULD IN ALL PROBABILITY BE THE HEAD OF TRANSLATORS' DELEGATION, WHICH WOULD BE PREPARED TO TRAVEL TO U.S. AS EARLY AS MID-OCTOBER.

3. KUDRYAVTSEVA ASKED EMBOFF FOR VIEWS CONCERNING TIMING AND PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS. IN DISCUSSIONS WHICH FOLLOWED EMBOFF OFFERED OPINION THAT NOVEMBER VISIT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO ONE IN OCTOBER IN LIGHT OF SHORT LEAD TIME. KUDRYAVTSEVA RESPONDED THAT THIS ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FINE BUT ADDED THE CAVEAT THAT SOVIETS WOULD PREFER NOT TO DELAY VISIT TOO LONG.

4. PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS DISCUSSED INCLUDED VISITS TO UNIVERSITIES WITH STRONG LITERATURE-RELATED PROGRAMS AND TO PUBLISHING HOUSES. EMBOFF SUGGESTED VISITS TO UNIVERSITIES IN NORTHEAST, MIDWEST, AND SOUTH. KUDRYAVTSEVA THEN ADDED THAT SHE FELT VISIT OF TRANSLATORS' DELEGATION WOULD OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR LITERATURE SEMINAR (REF B), CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN P.E. N, (REF C), AND POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION WITH IOWA WRITERS' PROGRAM (REF D). FYI, EMBOFF HAD INFORMED LURYE DURING EARLIER CONVERSATION BASED ON REF D THAT FORMAL SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN IOWA WRITERS' PROGRAM NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS SOONEST, RE POSSIBLE DATES FOR VISIT BY TRANSLATORS' GROUP AND PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS. IN PREPARING THESE, EMB REQUESTS DEPT. CONSULT WITH RETURNED AM SPEC SOLOTAROFF AND WITH KENNAN INSTITUTE'S STARR TO ASSURE THAT VISIT WOULD INDEED PROVIDE USEFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER LITERARY CONTACTS. ALSO SUGGEST THAT IN PREPARING PROGRAM DEPT. KEEP IN MIND GORKY INSTITUTE'S INTEREST IN DIRECT ON-GOING CONTACT WITH AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (REF C). GOOD CHANCE THAT GORKY INSTITUTE WOULD BE REPRESENTED IN DELEGATION. EMB CONTINUING TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GORKY CLEAR INDICATION OF ITS INTERESTS, AS REQUESTED REF E.

6. KUDRYAVTSEVA HAS JUST BEEN GIVEN TASK OF PREPARING FIRST SOVIET TRANSLATION OF GONE WITH THE WIND FOR PUBLICATION. SHE HAS YEAR AND ONE-HALF TO COMPLETE THIS TASK. HENCE, A VISIT TO THE SOUTH AND DISCUSSIONS WITH AUTHORITIES ON SOUTHERN LITERATURE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY RELEVANT FOR HER. ONCE QUESTION OF TIMING IS SETTLED, EMB WILL

ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN DETAILED INFO ON CURRENT PROJECTS OF
OTHER PARTICIPANTS SO THAT FINAL PROGRAM CAN BE MADE
AS RELEVANT AS POSSIBLE TO THEIR CURRENT WORK.
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